

BROADCAST 3170

DATE: April 28, 2005

TO: Local directors, local foster care and adoption supervisors and staff, local foster, adoption and resource family trainers

FROM: Vickie Johnson-Scott, Director, Division of Family Services
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SUBJECT: Increase in Foster Care Board Rates

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Effective July 1, 2005, the foster care board rates will increase by 3.03 percent. The new rates are as follows:

Age of child	Room and board	Clothing	Personal care and recreation	Monthly allowance	Total payment rate
0 through 4	214	39	59	0	312
5 through 12	244	50	64	7	365
13 and over	296	79	69	19	463

The 2004 Appropriation Act (Item 357, Section D) requires the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), in conjunction with the Virginia Department of Planning and Budget, to adjust maintenance rates at the beginning of the fiscal year following a fiscal year when salary increases are provided for state employees. The increase is to be based on inflation costs for raising a child. Because state employees received a raise in Fiscal Year (FY) 2005, funding has been made available for a foster care board rate increase in FY 2006.

The basic foster care board rate increase is applicable to all local and private child placing agency foster homes. Funding for local departments to support the rate increase will be available July 1, 2005, and accessible through the LASER reimbursement system.

There is no change to the \$300 annual clothing allowance for each child in foster care.

This increase should also be provided to families receiving adoption assistance who are getting the maximum allowable maintenance payment.